

On: 27 October 2014, At: 09:49

Publisher: Taylor & Francis

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number:
1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street,
London W1T 3JH, UK



Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 2

Publication details, including instructions for
authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah08>

XXX.—Descriptions of two new birds from Jamaica

Philip Henry Gosse

Published online: 16 Dec 2009.

To cite this article: Philip Henry Gosse (1849) XXX.—Descriptions of two new
birds from Jamaica , Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 2, 3:16,
257-259, DOI: [10.1080/03745485909494758](https://doi.org/10.1080/03745485909494758)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03745485909494758>

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Taylor & Francis makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (the "Content") contained in the publications on our platform. However, Taylor & Francis, our agents, and our licensors make no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in this publication are the opinions and views of the authors, and are not the views of or endorsed by Taylor & Francis. The accuracy of the Content should not be relied upon and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Taylor and Francis shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages, and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to or arising out of the use of the Content.

This article may be used for research, teaching, and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, reselling, loan, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Terms & Conditions of access and use can be found at <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/terms-and-conditions>

receptacles, very bushy in appearance. My specimens are not more than 14 inches long, but evidently indicate a plant 2 or 3 feet in length.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE X.

Sargassum squarrosum.

- Fig. 1. A branch.
 — 2. Leaves.
 — 3. Vesicles.
 — 4. Receptacles. The last magnified.

Sargassum divaricatum.

- Fig. 1. One of the ramuli.
 — 2. Vesicles.
 — 3. Do.
 — 4. Receptacles. 3 & 4 magnified.

Sargassum acutifolium.

- Fig. 1. A small branch.
 — 2. Do. from a young plant.
 — 3. Vesicles.
 — 4. Do. produced at the end of leaves.
 — 5. A raceme.
 — 6. A single receptacle. 5 & 6 magnified.

XXX.—*Descriptions of two new Birds from Jamaica.*

By PHILIP HENRY GOSSE.

THE former of the two species which I am about to describe was accidentally overlooked in writing my 'Birds of Jamaica,' and the latter has been discovered since the publication of that work.

Elania cotta. Length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, expanse of wing $8\frac{6}{10}$, flexure $2\frac{6}{10}$, rictus $1\frac{3}{10}$, tarsus $1\frac{9}{10}$, middle toe $\frac{6}{10}$. Irides dark hazel; feet dark slate-gray; beak black. Head blackish ash; crown brilliant yellow, commonly concealed; back and rump olive; tail blackish with olive edges; wing black; the primaries edged faintly, the secondaries, tertiaries and greater coverts conspicuously, with pale yellow; third quill longest. A white stripe, ill-defined, over the eye, meeting on the forehead; ear-coverts white, with dark tips; chin, cheeks, throat, and breast white, speckled obscurely with black beneath the eyes; belly, vent, under tail-coverts, and inner surface of wings, delicate pale yellow.

This little Tyrant, for want of any obvious peculiarities to distinguish it from others of its genus, I have named from the locality where I first met with it, the Cotta-wood, a tangled cop-pice on Grand Vale Mountain, in the parish of St. Elizabeth. I afterwards observed it in other situations, as in the woods around Bluefields, but it does not appear to be anywhere common: nor am I able to say whether it is a permanent resident, or merely a

winter visitant in Jamaica. Its manners, as far as I have noticed them, resemble those of the other Tyrants; pursuing insects in the air, and retiring to a prominent twig to eat them. I have observed one attack with much clamour a John-to-whit (*Vireosylva olivacea*), on the wing.

A figure of this species will be found in my 'Illustrations of the Birds of Jamaica,' Part xiii. plate 45.

Trochilus Maria. Length $4\frac{1}{10}$ inches; wing from flexure $2\frac{4}{10}$; rictus rather more than $\frac{7}{10}$; tarsus $\frac{2}{10}$; middle toe $\frac{3}{10}$. Beak (in a dried state) blackish brown above, buff below, with the tip black: irides — ?; feet black. Crown dull black, each feather tipped with a spangle of green and bronze, the spangles having a tendency to form longitudinal rows: nape and sides of the neck blackish, beset with spangles less numerous, but larger and more golden than on the crown: back and shoulders of wings richly bronzed with a ruddy golden hue, slightly tending to green in some lights; rump and upper tail-coverts more decidedly golden green; tail black, glossed with golden green, principally towards the tips of the feathers, the uropygials having more of the metallic lustre than the rest; wing quills and greater coverts purplish black, the innermost coverts and the winglet tipped with golden: throat, breast and belly emerald green, not scaly, the tips of the feathers only being metallic and showing the brownish black bases between them: vent and under tail-coverts black. The specimen appears to be an immature male.

This specimen of a species previously unknown to me was obligingly forwarded to me by my esteemed scientific friend, Richard Hill, Esq. of Spanish-Town, to whom it was sent from the mountains of Manchester. It is near to *Polytmus*, but differs from it in the inferior length of its beak, and in the colours of the plumage; but being apparently young, it is impossible to say what its adult condition may prove. I am happy however to fortify my own judgment by that of Mr. Gould, who on my showing it to him decidedly pronounced it new.

Mr. Hill writes me concerning the specimen: "It was startled from a nest in which were two young ones, and was obtained by charging some of the blossoms of the mountain-pride (*Spaethelia simplex*) on which it was feeding, with minute doses of strychnine. As soon as it sucked from one of the poisoned chalicees, it fluttered, and fell dead."—"The nest does not differ in structure from those made of the drab-coloured down of the *Eriodendron*, or of the *Ochroma lagopus*, with a stucco of lichens."

Mr. Hill had at first proposed to name this species "*bracteatus*," but afterwards substituted the feminine appellation, which I have pleasure in placing at the head of this article. "Doubting," he observes, "whether *bracteatus* was sufficiently

distinctive, I had meditated calling it *Maria*, in remembrance of my late talented little niece, who had assisted me so much in my natural history studies, by collecting specimens and getting up facts relating to the instincts and habits of the objects I noted or described. *Maria* was with me in Manchester when I procured the green-backed swallow (your *Hirundo euchrysea*), and we visited together in the very district where this new *Trochilus* was found; but I hesitated about the adoption of her name, from the impossibility of putting it in any other way than as '*Trochilus Maria*,' though *T. Cora* and *T. Mango* might reconcile me to it. [Other examples, as *Anna*, *Sappho*, &c., might also be added.] I leave the matter in your hands, but would suggest that the specific soubriquet should be considered undetermined, till fresh specimens be obtained."

A figure of this specimen appears in my '*Illustrations*,' Part xiii. plate 22.

XXXI.—*Supplementary Notices regarding the Dodo and its Kindred.* Nos. 4, 5. By H. E. STRICKLAND, M.A., F.G.S.

[Continued from p. 139.]

4. *The Dodo applied to Heraldry.*—I am indebted to the Rev. Richard Hooper, of St. Stephen's, Westminster, for obligingly calling my attention to what may be called the heraldic department of the Dodo-history. The introduction of such a subject into a scientific journal would require apology were it not certain that many a curious fact of history, both physical and civil, may be disentangled from the quaint devices of armorial pageantry. It now appears that besides the "human Dodos" referred to by a witty (yet scientific) writer in *Blackwood's Magazine* (Jan. 1849, p. 81), a family has existed in modern times, bearing the synonymous name of *Dronte*, and decorated with a *Dodo* on their armorial shield. Could we now trace out the whereabouts of this family, we might possibly elicit from their archives some original facts connected with the present matter. All my inquiries about the *Dronte* family have indeed hitherto been fruitless, but I hope that this notice may induce heraldic students to throw light on the subject. The passage to which I here refer is contained in the '*Academy of Armory and Blazon*' by Randle Holme, published at Chester in 1688; book ii. ch. 13. p. 289. The Rev. J. Baron of Queen's College, Oxford, has kindly afforded access to a copy of this rare work in the library of that college, and has enabled Mr. Delamotte to engrave the following facsimile of the heraldic device. This figure seems to have been copied, with a little alteration, from that contained in the rare edition of Bon-